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A NEW SPECIES OF *SATUREJA* (LAMIACEAE) FROM NUEVO LEON, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the section *Gardoquia* of *Satureja*, **S. hintoniorum** B.L. Turner, is described and illustrated from southern Nuevo León, México. It is most closely related to *S. maderensis* Henrickson, of central Coahuila, México, both possessing purplish flowers, the remaining six North American species having yellowish-red to red or orange flowers.

KEY WORDS: *Satureja*, *Gardoquia*, Lamiaceae, México

Routine identification of Mexican of plants has revealed the following novelty.

Satureja hintoniorum B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, along road from La Escondida to San Francisco, "road cliff in shrubby hills", 2410 m, 23 Jul 1993, *Hinton et al. 23059* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotype: MEXU).

Saturejae maderensi Henrickson similis sed differt habitu sigillatim fruticoso (vs. herbaceo), floribus minoribus in pedicellibus brevioribus (1-3 mm longis vs. 3-7 mm), et pubescentia caulium pilis plerumque patenti-hispidulis (vs. valde deorsum curvatis).

Shrublets to 0.6 m high. Stems stiffly erect, brittle, the new growth brown, minutely hispidulous, the hairs ca. 0.1 mm long, the older growth (at midstem) ca. 5 mm across, with rough-shedding fissured bark. Leaves glaucous, mostly 1.5-2.0 cm long, 0.6-0.8 cm wide; petioles 4-7 mm long, hispidulous like the stems; blades ovate, abruptly tapered upon the petioles, the margins entire,

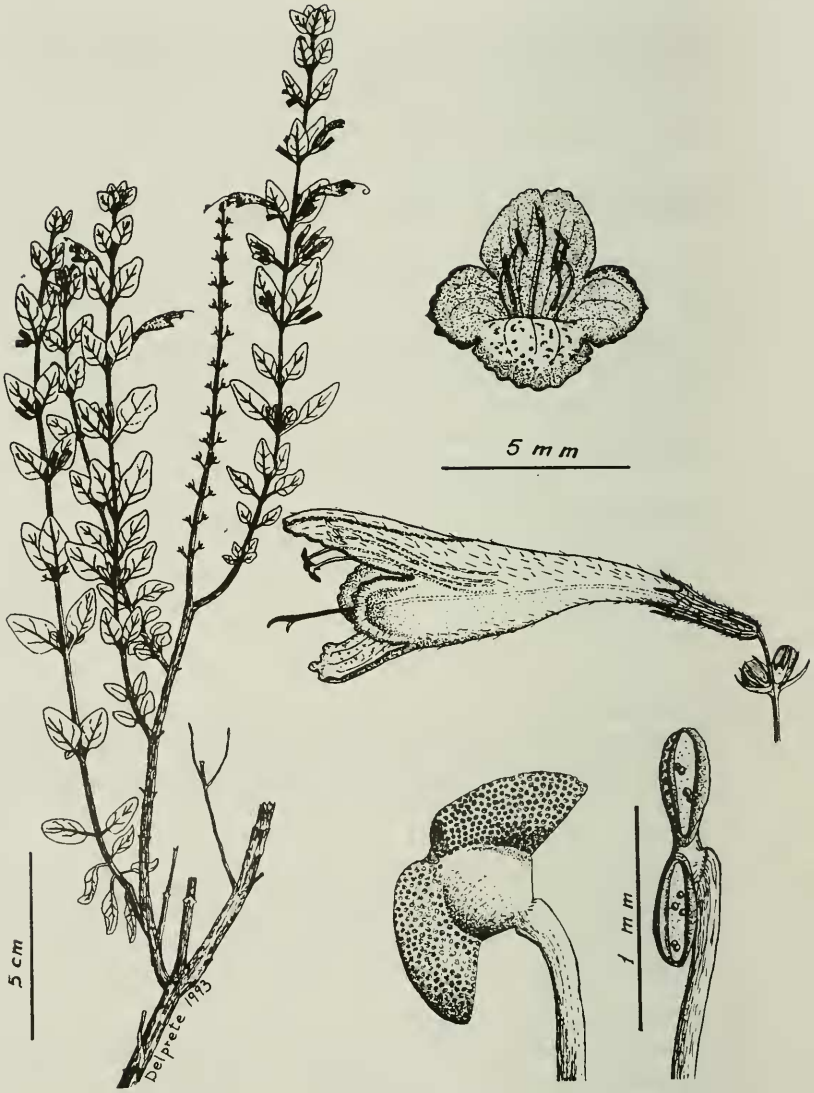

Figure 1. *Satureja hintoniorum*, from holotype.

minutely scabridulous, the lower surfaces weakly pinnately nervate, glandular-punctate. Flowers arranged on short, opposite, 3-flowered cymes along the upper branches, the common peduncles 3-4 mm long, the ultimate pedicels 1-3 mm long, the bractlets lanceolate, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Calyx cylindrical, 5-6 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide at base, ca. 1.5 mm wide just below the lobes, ca. 10-ribbed, pubescent with upturned hairs, the 5 teeth ca. 1 mm long, ± similar, acute, inner surfaces of the lobes markedly strigose with white stiff hairs, these extending beyond the tube proper. Corolla ascending, purple, puberulent, 18-22 mm long, weakly zygomorphic, the upper 2 lobes ca. 4 mm long, fused, the lower 3 lobes 2-3 mm long. Stamens 4, at anthesis the longer pair exserted, the shorter pair about as long as the corolla or somewhat less; filaments glabrous; anther thecae divergent, purplish, ca. 0.5 mm long, separated by a triangular connective. Nutlets 4, immature.

Satureja hintoniorum is apparently most closely related to the recently described *S. maderensis* Henrickson (1981), a perennial herbaceous species of Coahuila, México, the two having very similar floral features, each with 4 stamens and nearly identical anthers. *Satureja hintoniorum*, in habit, superficially resembles members of the genus *Poliomintha*, but is readily distinguished from the latter by its 4 stamens (vs. 2) and markedly different anthers.

Satureja, as recognized by Epling & Jativa (1966), is a diverse assemblage of taxa and it is doubtful that the genus as delimited by them will withstand a more rigidly reasoned phyletic analysis, especially one based upon strongly formulated cladistic theory. Henrickson (1986) positioned *Satureja maderensis* in the small section *Gardoquia* (Ruiz & Pavon) Briq. of *Satureja* (cf. Epling & Jativa 1966; McVaugh & Schmid 1967). I can suggest no better position for *S. hintoniorum* at the present time; indeed, the species has the habit and foliage of *S. mexicana* (Benth.) Briq. and *S. seleriana* Loes., but it differs from both in having lavender or purple corollas arranged in 3-flowered cymes. More detailed analyses may show that the section *Gardoquia* is perhaps deserving of generic rank as first proposed by Ruiz & Pavon. With description of the present species, sect. *Gardoquia* in North America comprises eight species: six in México and closely adjacent Guatemala, and two in the West Indies. Of these, only *S. maderensis* and *S. hintoniorum* possess blue or lavender corollas; the remainder possess large yellowish red to orange-colored corollas.

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